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International Trade, Industrial Development and Finance P.O. BOX 13361 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019 December 2, 1988

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Dr. Gates:

I am a Houston member of A.F.I.O. and appreciated hearing your October 15 key note speech at our annual convention. In the question and answer period, there was a point that caught my attention. You mentioned that the U.S. Government was having difficulty in recruiting qualified analysts in the chemical, biological and scientific areas. Obviously private industry can pay substantial salaries for scientists.

We have been reading George Bush's lips and he does mean no new taxes. Other friends in A.F.I.O. feel that might be translated into a 25% budget cut across the board for military and intelligence operations. We are also aware of the negative scenario that the price of oil in the foreseeable future will not return to \$30/barrel. It may stay at this current \$15 level, but in planning you have to be prepared for \$8 oil again. Under these sets of circumstances, there currently is a large body of qualified chemists, biologists, engineers, mathematicians, etc. who are formerly oil patch employees and are unemployed or are working outside of their professions. If we go down to \$8 oil again, a larger number of these highly qualified scientists will be laid off. When the oil industry was hit by a recession (budget cuts) they laid off full-time employees, but worked with consultants which do not carry the same pension, insurance and fringe benefit costs.

It would be possible to form a consulting group consisting of former oil industry scientists to meet Government research requirements in the chemical, biological, engineering, scientific and mathematical areas. The ideal person to coordinate such a project would be Fred Rodell, head of our Houston A.F.I.O. group. Many of these unemployed oil industry scientists have intelligence backgrounds either from academic or military training. Basically there are a large number of experienced scientists and engineers from the oil patch who could be retrained or refocused to meet Government requirements.

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In addition, there is a reasonable amount of expertise in Texas on the coming immigration problems we are going to have after the economic collapse of Mexico. For example, the former City Planner of Houston, Harvard trained Roscoe Jones, thirty years ago was City Planner of Dade County (Miami), Florida. He could put together a team to show a positive-negative scenario of the sociologic consequences of the Mexican breakdown. Currently there is no City or Regional Planner with a data base preparing for these changes. It would be possible to go into northern Mexico and to look at the education level of children (40% drop out in the fifth grade) and predict the probable nature of immigration over the next 5 - 10 - 20 years.

Budget cuts, \$8 oil and large numbers of unemployed experienced scientists are not fun, but its reality. Can Fred, Roscoe or I be of help regarding the above issues?

Yours truly,

Peter C. Maffitt

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cc: Mr. Fred Rodell